**HTML Form Attributes**

This topic describes the different attributes for the HTML <form> element.

## **The Action Attribute**

### The action attribute specifies what should happen when the form is submitted.

### When a user clicks the submit button, the form data is usually sent to a server file.

### The form data is sent to a file called "action page.php" in the example below. This file includes a server-side script for dealing with form data:

### **Example**

On submit, send form data to "action\_page.php":

<form action="/action\_page.php">  
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>  
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>  
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>  
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" value="Doe"><br><br>  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>

 The action is set to the current page if the action attribute is omitted.

## **The Target Attribute**

The target attribute specifies where the response received after submitting the form should be displayed.

One of the following values can be assigned to the target attribute:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Value** | **Description** |
| \_blank | In a new window or tab, the response appears. |
| \_self | In the current window, the response is displayed. |
| \_parent | The response is displayed in the parent frame |
| \_top | The response appears in the entire body of the window. |
| *framename* | The response is displayed in an iframe with a unique name. |

The default value is self, which means the response will appear in the same window as the current one.

### **Example**

Here, the submitted result will open in a new browser tab:

<form action="/action\_page.php" target="\_blank">

## **The Method Attribute**

When submitting form data, the method attribute specifies the HTTP method to use.

The data from the form can be sent as URL variables (method="get") or as an HTTP post transaction (method="post").

When submitting form data, the default HTTP method is GET.

### **Example**

This example uses the GET method when submitting the form data:

<form action="/action\_page.php" method="get">

### **Example**

This example uses the POST method when submitting the form data:

<form action="/action\_page.php" method="post">

**Notes on GET:**

• NEVER use GET to send sensitive data!

• Appends the form data to the URL in name/value pairs (The data from the submitted form is visible in the URL!)

• A URL's length is limited (2048 characters)

• GET is good for non-secure data, such as query strings in Google, and is useful for form submissions where a user wants to bookmark the result

**Notes on POST:**

• POST has no size limitations and can be used to send large amounts of data.

• POST appends the form data inside the body of the HTTP request (the submitted form data is not shown in the URL).

• POST submissions are not able to be bookmarked.

**Tip:** Always use POST if the form data contains sensitive or personal information!

## **The Autocomplete Attribute**

### The autocomplete attribute determines whether autocomplete should be enabled or disabled on a form.

### When autocomplete is enabled, the browser fills in values based on what the user has already entered.

### **Example**

A form with autocomplete on:

<form action="/action\_page.php" autocomplete="on">

## **The Novalidate Attribute**

### The novalidate attribute is a true/false boolean value.

### It specifies that the form-data (input) should not be validated when submitted when it is present.

### **Example**

A form with a novalidate attribute:

<form action="/action\_page.php" novalidate>

## **List of All <form> Attributes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Description** |
| [accept-charset](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_accept_charset.asp) | The character encodings used for form submission are specified here. |
| [action](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_action.asp) | When a form is submitted, this property specifies where the form data should be sent. |
| [autocomplete](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_autocomplete.asp) | Indicates whether autocomplete should be enabled or disabled for a form. |
| [enctype](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_enctype.asp) | Only for method="post"), this specifies how the form data should be encoded before being sent to the server. |
| [method](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_method.asp) | When sending form-data, this property specifies the HTTP method to use. |
| [name](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_name.asp) | The name of the form is specified here. |
| [novalidate](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_novalidate.asp) | When the form is submitted, this option specifies that it should not be validated. |
| [rel](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_rel.asp) | The relationship between a linked resource and the current document is specified here. |
| [target](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_form_target.asp) | Specifies where the response received after submitting the form should be displayed. |